

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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HARPERS FERRY
Historical Association

Stewardship through Education

Presents

a 19th-Century Historic Music Workshop

Shout of Sacred Joy:

An Introduction to Shape Note Singing

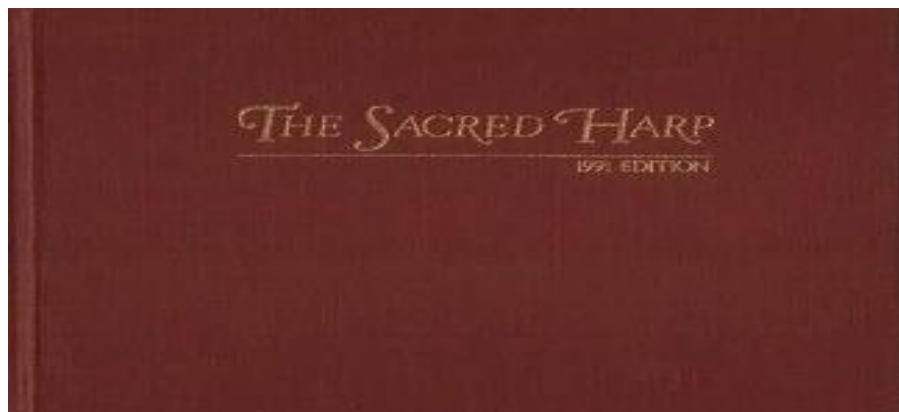
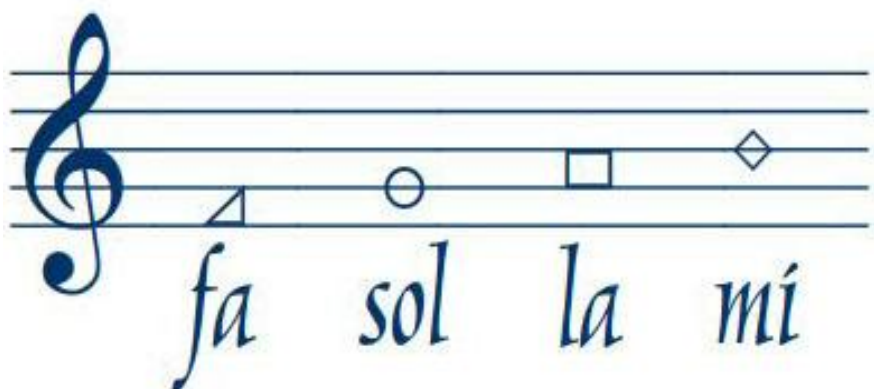
19th-Century Techniques for 21st-Century Singers



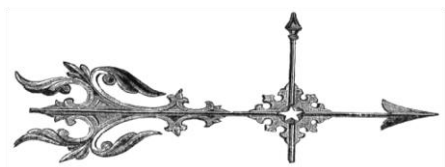
America on Stone Harry T. Peters Collection Smithsonian Institution



<http://www.awakemysoul.com/pg13.htm>

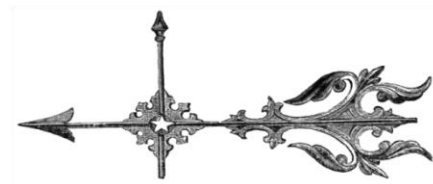


Featuring instructors Joshua Barnett, Nora Miller, Jessica Keyes, and Kevin Griffin Moreno



Saturday August 25th 2012

From 9am to 6pm



This workshop is designed to provide a background into the history, customs, and rudiments of shape note singing.

Experience a uniquely American musical tradition--with historical links to 19th-century music education, camp meetings, social events, and the Civil War--that gathers people together to form a singing community where everyone's voice is heard.

For Registration, contact the Living History Offices at 304-535-6063.

FOR Vocalists and Interested Individuals

This is the third in a series of workshops designed to bring together specialists, musicians, and interested individuals to discuss, explore, and give voice to American music traditions dating back to 19th century. This August 25th event features shape note singing, a uniquely American form of choral singing that has its roots in the nation’s Colonial period. Today, the tradition continues, not as a re-enactment or re-creation, but as a living and ongoing practice that brings together communities of singers, young and old, novice and experienced, to sing the fusing tunes, anthems, and set-pieces of shape note hymnody.

Though the music is deeply spiritual, shape note singing has no sectarian affiliation; all singers of any background are welcome to sing. Become part of a growing community that inclusively seeks to understand how America’s diverse musical heritage relates to our performances in the present.

This workshop will include discussions about shape notation, the music, its history and customs, and tutorial sessions that will prepare attendees to participate in a shape note singing event. Bring your voices!

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

For New Learners: Learn about shape note singing, history, custom, and tradition. Come prepared to sing!
For Experienced Shape Note Singers: Come to Harpers Ferry to participate in a shape note singing and welcome new learners to the tradition (see preliminary schedule below).

Workshop registration:

REGISTRATION AND TUITION: Tuition is FREE to registered participants, but limited to 30 participants.
Contact Park Ranger, Melinda Day (melinda_day@nps.gov or 304-535-6063) and provide the following information:

- Name
- Email Address
- Mailing Address
- Preferred Phone Number
- Brief statement about your musical background

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

Travel Costs: To and from Harpers Ferry, WV,
\$10.00 Park Entrance Fee
Overnight Lodging for those who want to stay longer.
Meals (lodging information link) http://historicharpersferry.com/directory.php?type_id=4

MUSIC INFORMATION:

- Contact Joshua Barnett (joshuarushbarnett@gmail.com) with music- or shape note-related questions

LOGISTICAL/ EVENT VENUE INFORMATION :

- Contact Living History Offices (304-535-6063) or Park Ranger Melinda Day (melinda_day@nps.gov)

EVENT INCLUDES:

- Workshop sessions (history, rudiments of shape note singing, customs and practices)
- Singing
- Participate in a shape note singing event (public is welcome)

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: 8am to lot for 9am start

Saturday, August 25, 2012

- Pre-Event Social: (9:00-9:30 AM) (Registered participants)
- Session 1: Introductions and Overview (9:30-10:30 AM) (Registered participants)
- Session 2: Shape Note Singing History and Rudiments (10:30-11:30 AM) (Registered participants)
- Lunch: (12:00-1:00 PM)
- Session 3: Shape Note Customs and Traditions: (1:30-2:30 PM) (Registered participants)
- Session 4: Singing from ‘The Sacred Harp’ and ‘The Shenandoah Harmony’ (3:00- 6:00pm PM) Registered participants and Experienced Shape Note Singers) (Open to the Public)

ABOUT OUR FEATURED SHAPE NOTE INSTRUCTORS:

Joshua Barnett of Ellicott City, MD, has been studying shape note music since 2005 and has been actively singing for the last three years. He recently graduated with his masters in musicology from the University of Maryland. His thesis, entitled “The Brandstetter Tunebook: Shape-Note Dissemination and the Germans of Western Maryland,” covers his research into a recently-discovered unpublished 1820 personal tunebook containing shape note music. Joshua will be starting a new masters program in composition at Shenandoah University this fall.

Nora Miller of Baltimore, MD, has been a devoted shape note singer for 8 years since a friend took her to a Tuesday night singing in Northampton, MA on August 3, 2004. She grew up Irish Step Dancing, playing violin, and singing in chorus and musicals in high school; she never really considered herself a singer until she found Sacred Harp. Nora co-sponsors the Baltimore Weekly Sacred Harp Singing every Thursday and works as a special education teacher in Baltimore, MD. (<http://www.shenandoahharmony.com/about-us/>)

Jessica Keyes of Baltimore, MD, has been singing shape note music since 2007. Jessica studied music and ethnomusicology at the University of Alberta, where she performed with the wind orchestra, jazz band, Latin and funk bands, and Indian and Arab music ensembles. She works as a web developer, photographer, and designer (<http://prairieskydesigns.com>).

Kevin Griffin Moreno of Baltimore, MD has been singing shape note music since 2003 and has taught shape note workshops in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. An avid collector and sharer of good stories, he hosts the Full Circle Storytelling series (<http://mobtownblues.com>) and tweets @mobtownblues.